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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Mighty God, teach us to trust You more fully, to wait quietly for the unfolding of Your providence, to pray fervently, and to worship more humbly. Reassure us with Your wisdom, power, and love that Your providence will prevail.

Lord, You are our shelter for every storm. Remind our lawmakers to remember how Your purposes have prevailed in our Nation's history so they need not fear for the future.

Lord, provide them with a firm faith that will enable them to meet the daunting challenges of these times. Lengthen their moments of prayer until their lives become a continual aspiration after You.

We pray in Your matchless Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RUSSIA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, which happened last month, was a very disgusting thing to

hear about. Such action in Russia or by Russia is not unprecedented. In 2015, the leading democracy advocate in Russia, Boris Nemtsov, was gunned down within the sight of the Kremlin. The square in front of the Russian Embassy in Washington is now named in his honor, echoing the effort that I led to name the street in front of the old Russian Embassy after the dissident Andrei Sakharov.

Nemtsov's protege in the Russian opposition, Vladimir Kara-Murza, was then poisoned—poisoned twice but miraculously survived and continues to work for Russian democracy. The good news is that Mr. Navalny is reportedly conscious.

Now, a silver lining may also be that Putin's latest attempted assassination is bringing our allies toward a consensus to treat Putin as a pariah.

There are reports of senior German politicians reconsidering their support for Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which divides our European allies. This pipeline is opposed by countries like Poland and the Baltics that truly understand that Putin will use it as a strategic influence tool, as well as by the Trump administration and bipartisan majorities in Congress.

I hope all of these happenings are a start of a new era of cooperation with our Russian allies to counter Russian influence.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, when I address the situation in the Middle East, it is often to discuss instability, terror, or other threats to the United States and its partners, like Israel. Those threats still exist, but I am very glad to be speaking today about peace breaking out, and it is breaking out more quickly than we can even stage the official ceremonies to memorialize the diplomatic achievements.

A few weeks ago, with major help from the United States and the Trump administration, Israel and the United Arab Emirates reached the first Arab-Israel peace deal in 26 years. The Abraham Accord is named for the shared religious roots that Christians, Jews, and Muslims all hold in common. It will make the UAE just the third Arab nation, and the very first in the gulf, to normalize relations with Israel. In the words of Prime Minister Netanyahu, "full and official peace, full diplomatic agreement, with embassies, investment, commerce, tourism, and direct flights between Tel Aviv and Dubai and Abu Dhabi."

We have come a long way—a long way indeed. What a moment.

Farsighted leaders in both countries made sacrifices to make this deal possible. Prime Minister Netanyahu and Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayid understand that both Arabs and Israelis will benefit from the peace and prosperity that tearing down barriers can bring. America will also benefit from these two regional friends working more closely together and reducing tensions across the challenging region.

Now, to be sure, work is not finished, and no single step like this should be confused for an overnight miracle. In this case, we in Congress have an obligation to review any U.S. arms sales package linked to the deal. As we help our Arab partners defend against growing threats, we must continue ensuring that Israel's qualitative military edge

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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